Overcharging by Drug Companies

3023. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of instances of over-charging the consumers by drug companies have come to the notice of his Ministry;

(b) what are the details of such instances;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has received complaints about certain officers who are looking after price fixation and price monitoring of medicines in this department;

(d) if so, what are the details of such complaints and action taken against them;

(e) whether it is also a fact that certain companies have increased the prices of price decontrolled medicines by more than 100 per cent during 1988 without any justification;

(f) if so, what are the names of those medicines;

(g) what were their prices before DPCO, 1987 and their present prices; and

(h) what are the details of areas of drug industry being monitored by his department and what is the set up of each?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (h) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Drugs being produced tion Process

3024. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has shifted the category of a staple drug needed for treatment of TB on the plea of encouragement of production through fermentation from basic stage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the category of PAS, INH and Streptomycin used for treatment of TB being produced from basic stages has not been changed to encourage production;

(c) what are the names of drugs being produced in the country from fermentation process;

(d) how many drugs are covered under price control;

(e) whether Kelkar Committee made any recommendation in respect to any drug being produced through fermentation process; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) On the basis of recommendations contained in the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee, Rifampicin has been shifted from Schedule-I of DPCO, 1987 to Schedule-II.

(c) to (f) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Notices to Drug Companies

3025. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not even issued reminders to drug companies who failed to provide details in respect of recoveries into DPEA under Para (2) of DPCO, 1979 after December, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that only in some cases reminders were issued in the month of December, 1988 and January, 1989; and

(d) if so, what are the names of those companies along with names of the concerned drugs and formulations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) Many companies failed to provide the details to work out the amounts recoverable under para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979. Some of the companies have also disputed the recoverable amounts. Therefore it is proposed to refer all these matters to high powered committee.

Moving to rural areas by Indian and foreign large Industrial Houses

3026. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has suggested to make it obligatory for large Industrial Houses, both Indian and foreign, to move to rural areas as reported in the Financial Express dated the 29th January, 1989 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government will lay down similar guidelines for all sectors of industry; and if so, what are the details of action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There has been no specific reference from the Government of Orissa on this subject.

(b) It is the policy of the Government to promote industrialisation of the backward areas of the country. delicensing for MRTP/FERA companies has been made available for locations in backward areas. Even in respect of non-MRTP/non-FERA companies, delicensing facility is available only if the location policy stated in Notification of 30th June, 1988 is adhered to.

The Government has introduced a scheme to establish 100 Growth Centres which would be endowed with infrastructural facilities of a high order. These Centres are expected to give a strong impetus to industrialisation of the backward areas. Fiscal and financial incentives have also been provided by Government for location of industrial units in backward areas.

Offer of Assistance by British Oil Industry to India

3027. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Minister of State for Energy, Mr. Peter Morrison, has offered assistance of the British Oil Industry for India's petroleum development sector;

(b) if so, what are the specific proposals made by him during the talks in this connection;

(c) whether any agreement was also arrived at; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) A British Delegation headed by Mr. Peter Morrison, the British Minister of State for Energy and representatives of major British Companies serving the oil and gas industries visited India in January, 1989. On this occasion the British Energy Industries Council and the Indian Confederation of Engineering Industry sponsored two seminars on oil, gas and petrochemicals. Talks were held between the Indian and British Industries and British Minister also called on the Minister of Industry and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. The visit of the British Delegation provided an opportunity for exchange of ideas in the field of oil, gas and petrochemicals. No agreement was signed with the visiting delegation.

(d) Does not arise.